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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction -- A theory of priestly influence -- An initial look at priestly influence -- Priestly politics in 2004 -- Priestly politics confirmed -- The influence of priests on parishioners' politics in 2004 -- Conclusion -- Appendix A: Pastor interviews -- Appendix B: Analysis of bulletins -- Appendix C: 2004 survey of priests -- Appendix D: Background on 2004 survey of parishioners -- Appendix E: 2004 survey of parishioners.
Sommario/riassunto	For well over a century the Catholic Church has articulated clear positions on many issues of public concern, particularly economics, capital punishment, foreign affairs, sexual morality, and abortion. Yet the fact that some of the Church's positions do not mesh well with the platforms of either of the two major political parties in the U.S. may make it difficult for Americans to look to Catholic doctrine for political guidance. Scholars of religion and politics have long recognized the potential for clergy to play an important role in shaping the voting decisions and political attitudes